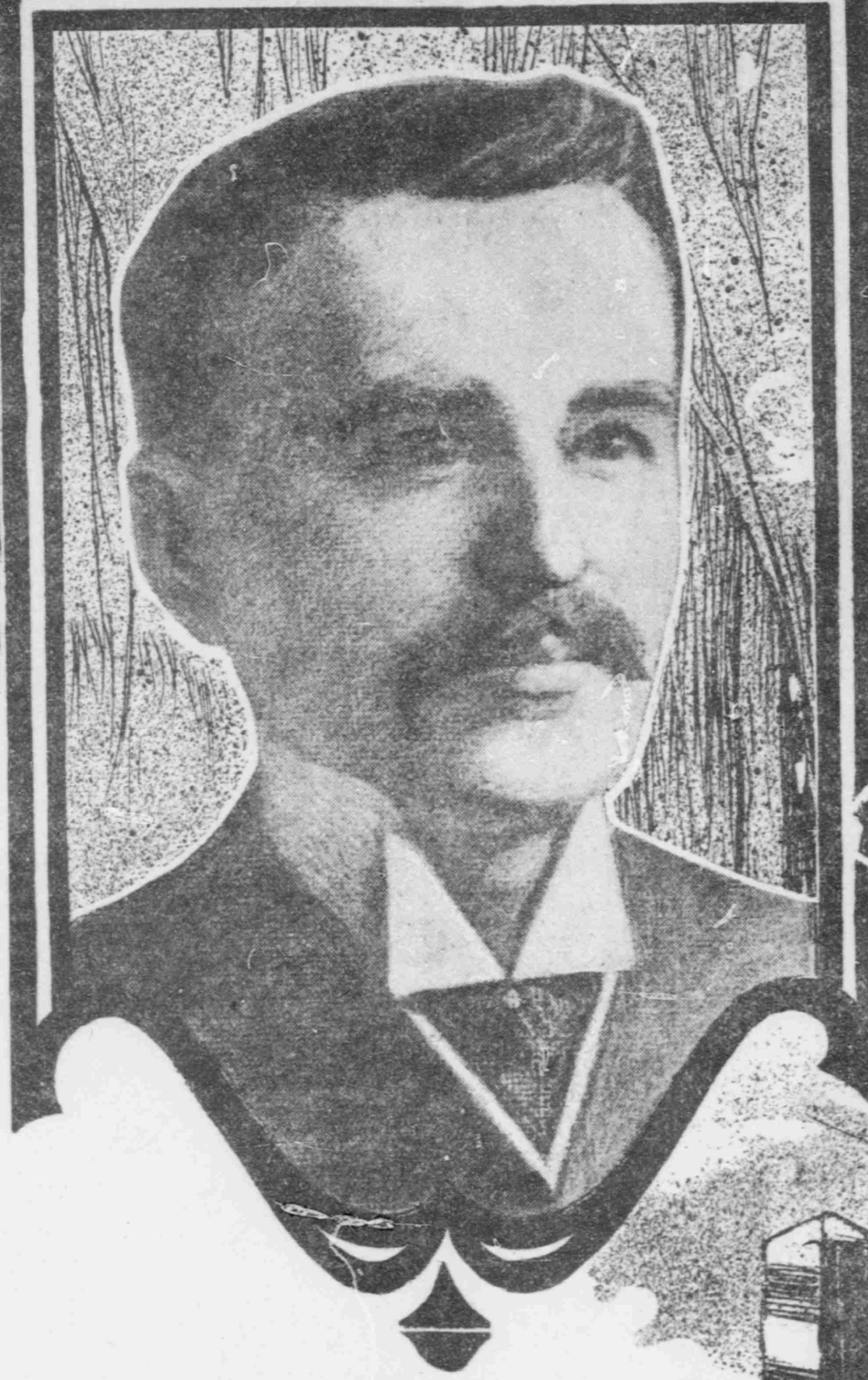


# Russian Exile Marked for Death

After Thrilling Escape From Siberia, and Being Hounded Around World by Agents of the Czar, He Calmly Awaits Fate in California.



LIEUT. COL. COUNT A. M. LOCHWITZKY

**B**ORN a nobleman, holding a colonel's commission in the Russian army, the possessor of high rank and ample fortune, Lieut.

Col. Count A. M. Lochwitzky, now a refugee living on the Pacific coast, lost it all for his political opinions and love of liberty.

An exile to Siberia, fleeing for his life from the fierce Cossacks of the Czar in the Transbaikalian desert, escaping from the horrors of the penal settlements, and after incredible adventures, reaching America by the way of Japan, this Russian nobleman lives yet in hourly fear of his assassination by agents of the Czar.

Locked in his breast are secrets of state, which the Russian government fears to allow to become public, and for that reason he has been doomed to death.

**C**OLONEL LOCHWITZKY is now a student at the University of Southern California, and legal adviser of the Russian colony in Los Angeles, and has been repeatedly condemned to death by the Russian government.

Hounded across two continents by spies of the dreaded Russian Third Section, smuggled out of a Siberian prison school stuffed in between the springs of a lounge, clutching a pistol in his hand day and night for weeks during one of the most perilous flights ever attempted by a prisoner of the Czar and forced to fly for his life from one foreign country to another, Colonel Lochwitzky has again been compelled to ask the authorities of Los Angeles for protection, and has been given permission to carry weapons, expecting any moment of the day or night to be killed by the bullet, blade or poison of the invisible spies who are now on his trail, watching for the first opportunity to assassinate him and to send to the bureaucracy of Russia the report of their success.

Colonel Lochwitzky's escape from the horrors of Siberia, which is known as a hell on earth for prisoners, was one of the most thrilling features of his eventful career as a Russian prisoner, but marked only the beginning of what may yet prove the end—the beginning of a series of death-dodging flights seldom heard of outside the pages of Tolstoy or Turgenev.

**Held Commission in Czar's Army.** Lochwitzky is descended from an ancient family of Polish nobility, and is a highly educated and polished gentleman.

He was at one time a colonel in the Russian cavalry, but was suspected of harboring reform principles, and for some petty trumped-up offense, always readily proved in that land of tyranny, he was sentenced to serve in the gray depths of Siberia. As he was not at that time a strong man, the officer in charge of the convict removed him from the ranks of the common criminals, and in view of his exceptional intelligence, placed him in charge of one of the so-called convict schools, where knowledge is despised and censured by the various despots from the Czar down.

This school Colonel Lochwitzky was compelled to teach without the aid of books, which are considered superfluous and too educative in Siberian criminal curricula. The only volume available was a torn portion of a Bible, which the colonel happened to have in his possession. He repeatedly pleaded for books and supplies for his school room, but his requests were curtly denied. A priest of the Greek church was supposed to visit the school twice a week, but after Lochwitzky took charge failed to show up for several months. When he did come he was intoxicated, and, according to Colonel Lochwitzky, abused him for teaching the convict chil-

dren from the Bible, declaring it was "full of revolutionary ideas and precepts not calculated to support the Russian system of government or to strengthen the forces of the Czar."

A lengthy argument ensued, but the priest held his ground, and reported the matter to the general in charge, who had Lochwitzky removed.

## Fled Into the Desert.

Colonel Lochwitzky was then confined in the prison stockade. By a daring ruse one dark night he overcame one of the jailers, whom he bound and gagged and thrust into his cell, and with the keys of the turnkey, made his escape from the stockade. A company of Cossacks were encamped close by, and Lochwitzky stole up to the sentry, whom he overcame without making any noise, secured his weapons, and, taking the captain's horse, which was the best in the picket, fled into the steppes.

Before the fugitive stretched that immense region which extends in an almost unbroken line from the Pacific Ocean to the Ural Mountains, and from the Arctic Seas to the savage Chinese frontier, where wild Tartars and semi-civilized Mongolian tribes still live in primitive savagery.

Toward the Chinese frontier and up near the Boreal zone the country is not only inhabited by the savage descendants of the barbarian hordes who followed Ghengis Khan when he overran western Europe with fire and sword, but in this region the Arctic dog, the savage wolf, the wild reindeer, and ferocious brown bears dispute with man the dominion of the plains.

Rarely does civilized man penetrate these solitudes, except it be a Cossack patrol in pursuit of some poor convict who has escaped from among the thousands tolling in the Czar's salt mines.

## Pursued By Cossacks.

Colonel Lochwitzky was pursued by a patrol of Cossacks, and while hid in the forest in a dense impenetrable thicket, saw them pass on his track.

Imagine a long line of sheepskin-coated warriors with high felt caps, mounted on shaggy ponies marching at a rapid trot in column of twos through the desert. Their silver-butted pistols and curved Turkish sabres catch and reflect the glint from the setting sun.

Their wild road song of "At! at! at!" resounds through the quiet stillness of the evening.

This patrol failed to discover the fugitive's hiding place, and after they had passed he rode further into the desert and took refuge for the night in a squalid Tartar village.

After further adventures and almost incredible hardship he was finally captured by another Cossack patrol, and was taken more dead than alive back to the penal settlement. From there he was sent to the island of Sogolien.

## Shipped in a Lounge to Japan.

Lochwitzky, after much suffering and incredibly brutal treatment at the hands of his new jailers, hid himself one night in a lounge, which

fellow convicts sewed around him, and it was shipped to Japan.

During this flight in the lounge Lochwitzky clasped a revolver in his right hand, ready to kill himself if captured, and made the thrilling journey into Japan with many narrow escapes from death, the lounge being roughly handled, part of the time standing on end, with its prisoner head down, when death threatened him from rush of blood to his brain. He survived the trip, however, and landed safely in Japan, where he soon found that paid spies had detected him and were plotting to effect his capture and return to Russia.

Lochwitzky then fled to China, where he was for a time secretary to the British commercial agent at Vladivostok, but again was forced to flee, with Russian spies on his trail, back to Japan. For a time he taught in a military college in Tokyo.

When he returned to Japan the Russo-Japanese war was in progress, and the colonel was looked upon with

suspicion by the Japanese soldiers. At one time, being taken for a Russian spy, the Japanese tried to have him put to death, and he had a narrow escape from being murdered at the hands of an angry mob, who hated all Russians.

Desiring to reach a country where he need not fear the Russian government, Lochwitzky came to the United States, his trip over being marked by other and numerous hardships and adventures. He landed at San Francisco, where he took out his naturalization papers some years ago.

## The Gray Prison Land.

Interviewed in San Francisco by a representative of the press, Colonel Lochwitzky talked interestingly of Siberia.

"Siberia," said he, "is a great penal colony. Exile to Siberia began in the first years of its discovery, and as early as 1653 we find the non-conformist priest Avvakum following in chains the exploring party of Pashkoff on the Amur. Rasokouls in the second half of the seventeenth century, rebel Stryelsky under Peter I, courtiers of rank during the reigns of the empresses, Polish confederates under Catherine II, the "Decembrists" under Nicholas I, nearly 50,000 Poles after the insurrection of 1863, and later on whole generations of social-

ists were sent to Siberia; while a number of common-law convicts and exiles transported thither has steadily increased since the end of the eighteenth century. No exact statistics of Siberian exile were kept before 1823. But it is known that in the first years of the nineteenth century nearly 2,000 persons were transported every year to Siberia. This figure had reached an average of 18,250 in 1873-77, and rose above 20,000 in 1882.

"Between 1823 and 1877 the total was 393,914, to which ought to be added the families of many exiles, making more than 600,000 men, women, and children transported since the beginning of the nineteenth century. Of 161,584 transported during the ten years, 1867-76, 18,582 were condemned to hard labor, 23,382 to be settled with loss of civil rights, 23,382 to be settled without loss of rights, 2,551 to live nearly free, while 78,988 were transported simply by orders of the administration or decisions of the village communities. In 1884, 21,104 exiles, followed by 1,732 women and 3,621 children, were transported to Siberia. Their distribution under different heads was nearly the same as the above. The hard-labor convicts (some 1,800 or 1,900) sent every year are distributed among several prisons in western and eastern Siberia, the imperial gold-washings at Kara on the



has been there about two years, working among the poorest classes of his countrymen. For, perhaps, the fiftieth time he has again learned that the spies have followed him there and that his steps are now shadowed night and day by these representatives from the Czar's domain, who have threatened him with death.

The reason of the attempts made on the life of Lochwitzky, and of the persistency with which the Russian government has sought him, is said to be that as he was an officer in the Russian cavalry and at one time a recognized writer and pedagogue of ability, the Russian government believe him possessed of too much valuable knowledge of a nature not calculated to add honor to the representatives of that government. This, at least, is the claim made by Lochwitzky's friends, who believe the attempts on his life have been followed up because of Lochwitzky's work among the Russians in Los Angeles.

This brave man has received the news of the death sentence imposed upon him in Russia with silent stoicism. He goes well armed and has passed through so many thrilling dangers that the sentence itself does not bother him, although he expects it will be executed—not formally—for he will never return to his native country, but by hired assassins, who may waylay him when least expected, even in the land of liberty, and under the shadow of the starry flag of freedom.

## FIRST NEWSPAPER PRINTED IN CHINA

IT IS reported from China that the oldest newspaper in the world, the Peking Gazette, is about to suspend publication. The first number appeared in 911 A. D., and since 1351, more than a century before the discovery of America, it has appeared regularly.

The Peking Gazette has published a daily budget of the imperial court news, and has been a repository of edicts from the throne, memorials from provincial governors and reports from Chinese officials. It would be wrong to infer that its contents were always dry, says the New York Sun. Frequently the Gazette has contained news of great interest to the world and information illuminating one phase or another of Chinese character or the governmental regime.

Perhaps we read one day that not only the soldier who had stolen thirty boxes of bullets had been severely punished, but the officer whose duty it was to inspect the stores and see that they were intact was condemned to eighty blows and dismissed from the service. This showed the grave responsibility imposed upon Chinese officials.

We learned from the Gazette that the explanation of moral maxims to

the people was a favorite prescription for amending their shortcomings. One day a memorial in the paper said that as the inhabitants of one of the provinces were turbulent, competent persons had been appointed to explain to them the maxims of the sacred edicts with the hope of improving their character.

A few years ago a report in the Gazette from the governor of Yunnan said that in some of the country districts the villagers had a horrible custom of burning to death any man caught stealing corn or fruit in the fields. Then followed detailed accounts of some of these events.

The files of the venerable paper are among the curiosities of typography. During a part of the eighteenth century it was printed in the imperial palace from movable copper type and in the last eighty years from movable type carved out of wood.

The Chinese government will now supplant the publication by the Government Gazette, which will be much larger and conducted along more modern lines. It will be the official government organ. The disappearance of the Peking Gazette is one of the signs of the times illustrating the mighty changes that are coming to pass in China.